

New feature arrives

"Letters to the Editor"

The newsletter will now publish letters to the editor. The publishing policy, recently approved by the Va'ad, calls for the printing of letters which are consistent with the spirit of Sha'ar Zahav's mission statement (see page 8), and which are relevant to synagogue events, topics covered in the newsletter, or issues of concern to our membership.

Letters must be typewritten and double-spaced. If you are responding to a particular article, please indicate the date of the newsletter in which it appeared. The deadline for letters is noon on the second Monday of each month. Please note that this is earlier than the articles deadline. Although we will make every effort to publish letters in the edition after the letter is received, we may require additional time before publication. We reserve the right to edit any letter published. See page 8 for our first letter.

Service of Healing

A weekly Jewish "Service of Healing" will take place at CSZ on Monday evenings from 6 to 7 pm. The first service will be on April 13. Through prayer, study, song and meditation, we will focus on *refuat ha-nefesh*, the healing of our souls. Whether you are in need of comfort, hope or guidance; whether you need a place to grieve, a prayer-discipline, or a spiritual community; whether you are struggling physically, emotionally or spiritually, you are invited to be a part of this new prayer community. The service is co-sponsored by CSZ and the Jewish Healing Center, and is open to all. For more information, call Rabbi Nancy Flam at the Jewish Healing Center, 282-3305.

Yizkor Service

The Jewish memorial service, *Yizkor*, will be observed on the last day of Passover, Saturday, April 25, as part of our *Shabbat* and Festival morning service. The morning service will begin at 10:30 am and the *Yizkor* service will begin at approximately 11:45 am. The service will include remembrance of our communal losses along with the recalling of the names of our deceased members and individual names gathered at the time of the service.

As we live through these years of continuing loss, *Yizkor* affords an opportunity to pause and remember those who we could not mourn at the time of their deaths. Traditionally, *Yizkor* services were held at Yom Kippur and on the three pilgrimage festivals of Succot, Passover and Shavuot. At CSZ, we have observed *Yizkor* at Passover with a special service for the last three years.

Havdalah Potluck

The next Women's Chavurah *Havdalah* potluck will be held in San Francisco, at the home of Robin Leonard and Lee Ryan, on Saturday, April 25 at 6 pm.

Following celebration of *Havdalah*, we will share a potluck dinner and view clips from a film-in-progress, by San Francisco filmmaker and producer, Leslie Krongold.

Leslie will lead a discussion about her work-in-progress, *Shekhinah*, a documentary focusing on five women rabbis, including Einat Ramon, Linda Holtzman and Amy Eilberg.

Robin and Lee's home, at 346 Euclid St., is north of Geary and west of Masonic. For better directions, call Robin at 386-7876. If your last name begins with A-H, please bring a main dish; I-P, a salad; and Q-Z, a dessert.

Must Reserve by April 6!

Seder 1992

Celebrate Passover with us at our annual congregational Seder on Saturday, April 18 starting promptly at 6:30 pm.

Space is limited and will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. A reservation form is enclosed and it is essential that it be received at the synagogue office *no later than Monday, April 6* together with names and checks. Whole tables for 16 persons may be reserved.

We offer subsidies for this function and if you can make a donation, please indicate so. Also, if a subsidy is requested, please contact the office quickly. Any balance remaining will be donated to Mazon, the Jewish hunger relief effort.

As always, a few willing volunteers are needed that day and for a few hours previously (haven't you always wanted to make *haroset* for 200!). Come help us out; it's fun. Call Shirley Liberman, 863-7500 ext. 123. Come celebrate Passover with us.

Israel Trip Update

As announced in the last issue of the *Forward*, the CSZ trip to Israel will occur immediately following the 13th International Conference of Gay and Lesbian Jews. The conference will be held in London from April 30 through May 3, 1993.

There will be an important meeting for the Israel trip on Wednesday, April 29 at 7:30 pm at the synagogue.

If you may be interested in participating in this very special way to experience Israel, please attend the forthcoming meeting. For further information, you can call the Israel Chavurah chair, Ron Lezell, at 824-4449.

URGENT!

Due to a severe volunteer crunch, there is a good possibility that *The Forward* will not be published after the June issue. We desperately need volunteers - editors, proof-readers, and layout artists - immediately! Please call Robin Leonard (386-7876). We're only asking for 2½ hours on one night a month.

Passover: "You Are There"

I have fond memories of high school history class movies which featured Edward Murrow hosting "You Are There." Judaism often asks us to remember—*Shabbat* is a weekly "reminder of the work of creation" and a "remembrance of the Exodus from Egypt." The Passover season as a whole is a reminder of our people's liberation; the entire festival is called "*z'man charutaynu*—the season of our freedom." The Seder itself, though, is not just a reminder of what was but summons us to live as if we had been there too: "In every generation, each person must see oneself as if s/he had gone forth from Egypt." (In some North African Jewish communities, it was customary to come to the Seder dressed and packed for the journey.)

The people of Israel found their journey from oppression to freedom a difficult one. They were slow to believe that the promise of freedom was true, wholly unprepared when the hour of liberation arrived, and almost immediately regretted their decision! We have more time to prepare than our ancestors did; they could not even wait to let the bread rise, let alone make the matzoh balls. But, if on Passover eve we reenact the Exodus from Egypt, we too might well ask: what should I pack for this journey? What from the past will sustain me on the way and what should I leave behind? On Passover we

dip twice, tasting the bitterness of oppression and the sweetness of liberation. When you prepare for Passover, in addition to logistics and cleaning and Haggadahs, spend some time preparing yourself: What oppression do you wish to name this year, that all may taste of its bitterness and resolve to overcome it? What freedom can you celebrate, sharing its sweetness with the gathered community?

The hardest part of Passover for me is rising from the Seder table. Having made the journey with our people from the place of oppression to freedom, we exit to a world which appears unchanged. I often feel at first a wave of disappointment; where is Elijah hiding? But the world has changed for we have changed. Reinspired to further our own movement towards liberation, we recommit to sharing in the labor of bringing the time of complete liberation closer for all creation.

The rabbis teach that even in the Messianic Days, the holiday of Passover will continue to be observed, lest we forget what we went through in order to arrive at a time of complete liberation. In a world still burdened by violence and oppression, we reenact an ancient journey to liberation lest we lose sight of our aspirations.

May your Passover season be a time of liberation and fulfillment for you and all those you love.

—Rabbi Yoel H. Kahn

• Isabelle Fishman •

Isabelle Fishman, whom many will recognize as the small elderly woman who sat in the front row of our synagogue (often next to Mike Rankin), died recently. During the Va'ad meeting, Rabbi Kahn said that Isabelle happened into our congregation one year during High Holidays, when our services were held at the JCC. Though she had not had any particular contact before with gay people, she became part of our community. Isabelle was a woman with a striking capacity for change—after living for 40 years in the same house in Brooklyn (30 of those coping with illness), Isabelle moved at the age of 80 to San Francisco to be near her daughter, the only person she knew in the city. Isabelle's presence in our community, her willingness to accept new people and ideas helped her serve for many of us as a shining representative of parental acceptance. Her presence in our community also helped us see that this is not only a congregation for gay and lesbian Jews, but for anyone who is looking for a Jewish home. As we took Isabelle into our congregation, so Isabelle took us in. On the last day of her life, fading in and out of consciousness, Isabelle took great pleasure in seeing the rabbi's baby son Adam; she could still appreciate the thrill of a new life growing. Her memory will be an enduring blessing for our congregation.

—Kathy Simon

CSZ Gift Shop Is Where It's At!

The "it" could be a special Sha'ar Zahav T-shirt, an *Out of Our Kitchen Closets* cookbook, a paperback edition of *Twice Blessed*, a lovely *mezuzah*, a child's *kippah*, or any of a large number of new items that just arrived—including some beautiful gifts for Passover.

Or the "it" could be a *tallit*, some *yahrzeit* candles or a simple card expressing friendship. And that's not all. To find out all that we do have, please stop by the gift shop (open each Friday from 7:30 to 8:05 pm, located upstairs by the library) and check "it" out.

—Jeff Rubin & Stan Kern
"Proprietors"

The Jewish Gaily Forward is published by Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, 220 Danvers at Caselli, San Francisco, California 94114, (415) 861-6932. Permission to reproduce material is freely given, and credit would be appreciated.

Members of the Congregation receive the *Forward*. For a donation of \$18/year, non-members will receive the *Forward*.

All newsletter copy should be typed, double-spaced and is due no later than the date of the Va'ad meeting. It should be sent to the synagogue office, marked to the attention of the *Forward*. All material is subject to editing; material will not be returned.

Members of the Newsletter Committee are Howard Blechman, Richard Inlander, and Lane Schickler (general editorial and production), Michael Bettinger (photographer), Rick Wilson (advertising coordinator), Howard Goldberg, Alex Ingersoll, Merry Luskin, Sam Thal, Eli Weinstein, Sylvia Weisenberg, Donna Rabinowitz, and Ron Wilmot (distribution). The *Forward* is typeset by David Lester, Mouse Type Inc., and printed by Lou Greene.

Display Ads are \$15 per column inch for non-members and \$10 per column inch for members, with discounts available for size and frequency. Ads should be camera ready; any ads that require typesetting, camera and/or artwork will be subject to a one-time production charge.

Classified Ads are \$5 for up to 20 words, plus \$1 for each 10 additional words. No personals accepted.

Payment must accompany ad and should be sent to Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, 220 Danvers at Caselli, San Francisco, California 94114, marked attention *Forward* advertising. The advertising deadline is the second Monday of the month. The *Forward* reserves the right to reject any ad for reasons of taste.

Children and Sha'ar Zahav

Children and their parents occupy positions of great importance in my life. As a school psychologist, I spend most of my waking hours (and at this time of the school year, many of my sleeping ones) either helping children and families function better or thinking about how to address some of the complex problems of raising children. I am usually pretty clear about my goals and advocacy, but will argue with myself about the best way to handle different situations. However, I must confess, that when it comes to children at CSZ, my internal dialogue has had a different content. I have come to recognize that I, and I expect many of you, experience a very complicated interplay of emotions when I am around children at Sha'ar Zahav. In my inaugural talk last July, I mentioned the search for our congregational identity. I feel my own personal Sha'ar Zahav identity struggle has been around children, and that in the past nine months I have reached a new level of understanding and commitment to our children. I would like to share some of my own process with you.

It seems a little ridiculous to have even the slightest ambivalence about children in a synagogue. After all, what is more important to Jewish culture than preserving it through raising and educating the next generations? Yet for gay men and lesbians, the issue of children has been up until the last several years one of great conflict and often great pain. At the time of the forming of Sha'ar Zahav in 1977, the gay movement was less than 10 years old. Many of us were, in a sense, only beginning to explore our own adolescences. Part of our coming out process was rejection of traditional Jewish and family values. There was no place for children in our world of bars, or bathhouses, or parties. Many of us were just beginning to be comfortable with expressing our sexuality in any public way. CSZ was created to fill a need to experience community, reclaim our Jewish roots, and taste spirituality in what was often a pretty hedonistic subculture. But in the beginning it felt very adult, male, club-like. Through the years we were joined by many women, and unless they had children, often older ones from former marriages, children were a rather rare occurrence at Sha'ar

Zahav. Babies almost never could be seen until the mid '80s. But then something changed. I think it is no accident that with the spread of AIDS into our community and our communal preoccupation with caregiving in the face of sickness and death, that a life-affirming force took hold. Those of our community, mostly women, of course, who wanted to have children took the courageous step to become lesbian parents and reaffirming and replenishing our community with new life. Infants' cries and toddlers' first uncertain steps became more familiar sights on Friday nights. It didn't feel quite like an adult club anymore. And I began to search my heart.

I had long realized that being gay had nothing to do with whether I liked kids or not. Obviously, I had chosen a career that put me in constant contact with children, and I felt that I could do at least as good a job of parenting as those I interacted with at work. In fact, I had always wanted to be a parent. But just as the lesbian community and even a few gay male couples were demonstrating that we could raise children, I found out that I was HIV positive. Not knowing the future of my own health I rejected even the possibility of adoption. I hurt. A lot. Seeing and hearing babies on Friday night brought more pain and jealousy and sense of loss than it did joy. I would say to myself, I have enough to do with kids during the week; why do I need to be around them on Friday night? I would guess that for any number of reasons, others might feel the same way – disinterest in children, lack of knowledge of how to be around children, jealousy, reminders of options no longer available. I even began to recognize my internalized homophobia: I felt constrained in showing affection with men friends around children; what would the children think? would they judge –

and condemn? I continued to search my heart.

In the ensuing five years, I have struggled with my feelings about children at CSZ. As I have resolved my own pain I could beg to take pleasure in the new families that were joining us. Always more comfortable, myself, with school-age children, I began to enjoy seeing the older children begin to take their place in our congregation. But something was still missing for me – a sense of connection and real commitment to our children. In the past few months there has been a change, not the least of which was my need as president to follow my own ideals and embrace with my heart all of our members. In February I attended a parents' meeting to hear their needs and concerns. I was touched by several of the women expressing a desire for contact for their children with men, as regular "buddies" or occasional escorts to events or arrangers of fun activities. I listened to the need for support for single parents and the desire for a full consideration of children in our synagogue activities and events. Could I even think of doing less for our children than I would do for those families in my school district? In mid-March, I helped facilitate a group discussion among the older Kadimah children about being in different kinds of families, with the hope of helping them verbalize and cope with these differences. Finally, I was able to make a contribution to our children, doing what I do for a living.

I think my real breakthrough regarding children came last month when I was privileged to attend the bar mitzvah of Jesse Hornstein. In addition to the fact that it was the most loving, gentle, and poignant bar mitzvah I have ever attended, I felt a real sense of pride. Francie and Ellen, Jesse's parents, were pioneers. They were among the first lesbian parents to blaze the trail of child-rearing without a lot of guidance. I was proud that CSZ was here for them. I was proud that their son was a gentle, caring, creative, and sensitive young man. I was proud that he would continue to be a part of our extended family.

My lover, Gary, asked me after the service if I had felt sad at seeing all of

Continued on page 5

Editors' Note

For simplicity, we have decided to print the area codes in this publication *only* when the code is other than "415," or when its omission would be confusing.

Family Service

The best of both Chasidic tradition and developmental psychology met during the family service held on Saturday morning, February 21. Rebecca Weiner, who teaches the Alef/Bet Kadimah class, led a creative program that engaged many of our younger congregants as well as their parents.

Benches were pushed back and we formed a circle on the sanctuary floor – but not for long. For this service included a great deal of movement delighting the younger participants and slightly stretching the older worshippers. We circled through the sanctuary and oneg room as we sang *L'Cha Dodi*. For *Mi Chamocha*, we recreated the crossing of the Red Sea. Lively action accompanied several prayers. To dramatize different emotions that are evoked in prayer, we created living statues of a range of feelings.

Children's services are an opportunity for Kadimah students to develop and exercise their understanding of our traditions. We used the Kadimah sid-dur, illustrated by members of the Alef/Bet class. The Gimel/Dalet class recited the *Bar'chu* together. A highlight of the service was the *derash* on the week's Torah portion, which was written and delivered by Max Nichols. (See accompanying article this page.)

Close to 40 people attended this service. We hope to see even more at the next family service on April 11. Come, with or without children!

New Members

The Membership Committee is pleased to announce that our congregation gained the following new members in March. A warm welcome to the latest people to join our family:

Nikki Bengal

Leslie Peller

Nancy Flam and Neil Kudler

Paul Nemrow and Jeffrey Forman

Minette Miller

We're grateful to see our congregation grow. It is up to all of us to help our new members feel welcome as they become active participants in our community.

Kid Commentary

The Torah portion describes the shattering of the Ten Commandments when Moses sees the Israelites dancing around the golden calf. The following commentary was written by Max Nichols, a student in the Kadimah Dalet class, and was read by him at the family service on February 21.



Max Nichols

I don't know why Moses dropped the Ten Commandments. Some possibilities for why are:

- God was angry because the Israelites had the Golden Calf and they were worshipping it instead of God.
- Moses lost his strength when he saw the Israelites.
- The writing on the tablets disappeared, they got heavier and Moses dropped them.

Singles Successfully Synergize

The first CSZ singles event was held on February 15 in honor of Reb Valenstein's Day and was notably successful. Some 34 adventurous souls braved frequently heavy rain showers to attend a very pleasant evening. We had the opportunity to meet on an individual basis as well as introduce each guest to the group.

The array of background and professions represented was very impressive. Places of origin included France, Israel, Italy and Uzbekistan, as well as various U.S. states.

The evening was marked by animated conversation as acquaintances were made. Of course, we enjoyed the refreshments provided.

In response to a suggestion, there will be an opportunity to be seated at a table reserved for *singles* at the congregational Passover seder, to be held on April 18. (See the flyer insert.)

A hike and picnic is being planned for the month of May. Please look for details in the next issue of the *Forward*.

Suggestions are being considered for future events. If you are interested in assisting, please call Donna (752-8951) or Phil (510/537-9152).

Kids 'n' Friends

The children of Kadimah, our religious school, have been a busy bunch: In addition to their third family service, held February 22, many participated in a mask-making workshop along with students from other religious schools at the Jewish Museum of San Francisco. And on March 21, the Kadimah Players presented a Purim play for the families and friends of the Family Chavurah.

Kadimah students and their families will participate in a Sephardic Model Seder on Saturday, April 11, beginning at 10:30 am at the synagogue.

The Family Chavurah wants to put interested people who live near one another in touch with each other so they can have potluck Shabbat dinners and other celebrations together. Anyone in the synagogue community who is interested in getting together with their neighbors is encouraged to contact Audrey Adelson at 510/849-3021.

A parents' meeting is planned for May 2 at 9:45 am. Not only parents, but anyone else interested in being a part of children's activities at Sha'ar Zahav is welcome to attend, "uncles" and potential "uncles" included. Please call the office for location of the meeting. Child care will be provided.

Anyone with news of events, both at CSZ and elsewhere, who would like to have them included in future Kids 'n' Friends columns, please contact Sue Douglass through the office.

Oneg Sponsors

During March, the following generous people sponsored onegs:

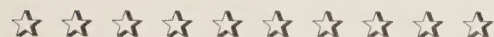
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|----|---|
| 6 | CSZ, honoring the Ritual Committee |
| 13 | Dues Committee, in recognition of the support of the congregation's dues policy by a large majority of the members. |
| 20 | Cindy Greenberg and Rebecca Tarin, in memory of Joan Morris Greenberg |

All you have to do to sponsor an oneg is to think of the occasion and contact the synagogue office (861-6932). The cost of sponsoring an oneg is \$50. For cosponsoring – in honor of a member's birthday or anniversary – the cost is only \$10.



Anniversaries

- 10 Judy Schwartz & Carolyn Pines
13 Jane Graeven & Mark Graeven
21 Rena Frantz & Ora Prochovnick



President's Column

Continued from page 3
the young babies there. While that didn't affect me, I said that it was still hard acknowledging that I would never know the joy of seeing my own daughter or son experience this Jewish rite of passage. But pride and joy for Jesse, Francie and Ellen was what I mostly felt.

On the other hand, I did feel sad because there were so few gay men there. I began to think how much we really need each other. Parents need the loving help and friendship that gay men can offer. Children need the role models for dedication and caring and community that gay men have developed, particularly in the face of continual and nearly overwhelming challenge. It is good for our children to understand what can be accomplished through hard work and love. Finally, maybe it is we men of Sha'ar Zahav who need the children most of all. Often at school I will hear derogatory comments about gay people. I challenge when I can, but I worry for my own vulnerability. And I realize that at CSZ, far from those feelings of internal homophobia I felt a few years ago, the only hope for our futures is to show our children that our love and affection is natural and not to be feared. We have a unique opportunity here to raise a truly accepting next generation, one for whom different sexual orientations are just another of the variations among human beings that make us so interesting. I hope that all of us can find ways to commit to embracing and participating in the education, recreation, raising and supporting of our Sha'ar Zahav children. In that way we can best ensure that they will be leaders in the Jewish community and in the human community in truly understanding and demonstrating acceptance of and compassion towards all of us.

Contributions

Sha'ar Zahav welcomes all contributions, of all sizes, to mark any event, and to any of our funds. Contributions will be acknowledged in the *Forward* unless requested otherwise.

Donations were made to Sha'ar Zahav's funds in the past months by the following contributors:

General Fund

We encourage donations to the General Fund in particular, since such donations can be used for any synagogue purpose.

- Paul Cohen and Bob Gutterman, in memory of Benno Haas
Mark Mackler and Ingu Yun, in memory of Thelma Schwartz
Susan Tubbesing and Sarah Nathe, in honor of Alita Rosenfeld and Kate Sharp, upon Alita's legal adoption of their son Daniel Sharp-Rosenfeld
Jeffrey Sundheim, in memory of his father, Robert Sundheim
Steve and Florence Nacamulli, in honor of Bobby G's 40th birthday

Caroline Isaacs and Randy Mayers, in memory of Randy's mother, Ethel Mayers

Nancy Epstein, in commemoration of the *yahrzeit* of her sister, Marilyn Epstein

AIDS Fund

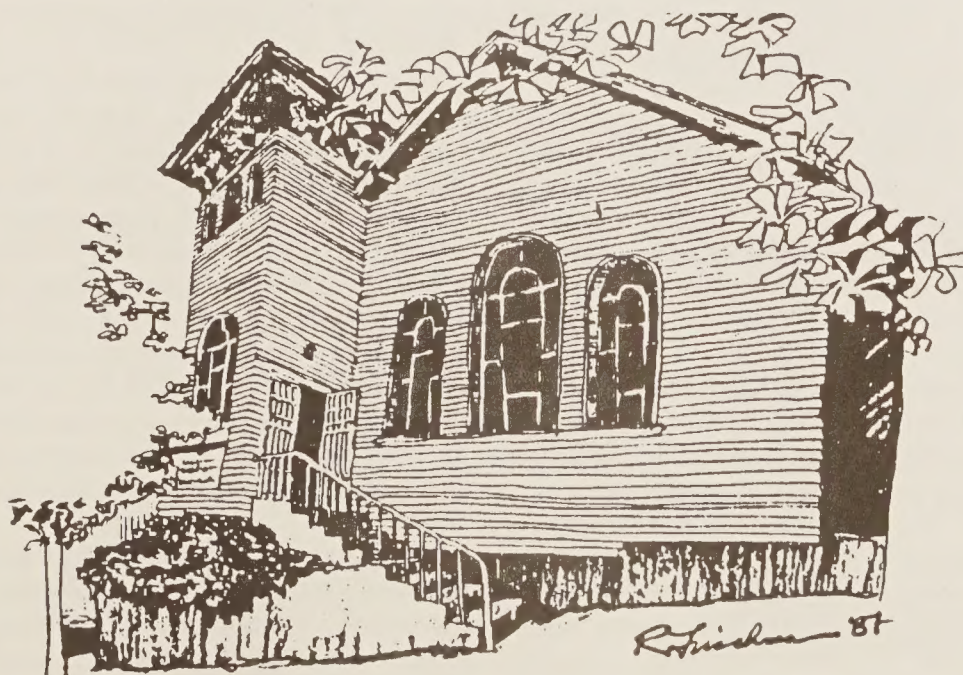
- Hal Podgur, in memory of Manny Scrofani
Howard Blechman, in memory of Ron Gertz

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

- Sandra Butler, in memory of Barbara Rosenblum
Edward Pollock, in memory of Alan Ellis
Susan Sobel-Feldman, in memory of Thelma Schwartz
Audrey Adelson, in gratitude of Rabbi Kahn's support of her family
Hal Podgur, in memory of Mollie Podgur

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav

Gift Shop



Friday nights 7:30-8:05 or by appointment.
Call Jeff Rubin at 334-7423.

Shelley Eisenman

So many of us moved to the Bay Area as adults, that we sometimes forget that many fortunate members of CSZ grew up in San Francisco. Shelley Eisenman has been a member for only two years, but has been attending at least one High Holiday service for each of the last five years. (She joins her loving and supportive family at Congregation Beth Sholom for the other services.)

Shelley's connections to the Jewish community began with childhood Hebrew school classes and summers as a camp counselor, and continued as she spent six months on a kibbutz in Israel during her college years. Her attraction to Sha'ar Zahav is because of "its outreach to the gay and lesbian community." The services are meaningful to her; the translations of the prayers reach out to who she is, the mixture of English and Hebrew readings interests her and the level of congregational singing "really helps create the joy of *Shabbat*."

After many years of working in retail, Shelley made a career change and accepted a position as office manager of the Children's Institute of the Jewish Family and Children's Services. She recently applied to start the MSW program at her alma mater, San Francisco State, where she had earned a degree in English and Women's Studies.

"Volunteering has been a good way to meet people, especially for someone as shy as me. You get an easy introduction to the people you are working with, and sometimes you're lucky and meet a girlfriend while pouring wine into tiny kiddush cups."

Shelley has preferred single volunteer tasks: helping to set up Shabbat and High Holiday onegs, and setting up for the Chanukah and Purim parties. She was recently recruited by Gail Friedlander to help produce the congregation's first procedures manual for committee chairs and events coordinators. "I'm excited about learning more about the congregation and helping to share the knowledge with new congregational leaders."

—Paul Cohen

March Va'ad Report

In his *D'var Torah*, Rabbi Kahn spoke of the recent death of Isabelle Fishman (see box on page 2).

Allyce Kimerling reported that the UAHC's regional Social Action Committee has recently been reinvigorated. Allyce is chair, and she is looking for a co-chair and for members of the committee – who will have ample opportunity to offer their input. Allyce also announced that the regional convention will be held in Monterey next February and the national convention will be in San Francisco the following November. Volunteers are needed to work on both events; contact Allyce, or Mike Rankin and Susan Tubbesing, who are handling local arrangements for the regional convention.

The largest part of the Va'ad meeting was spent discussing the Finance Committee's draft budget proposal for next year. The Va'ad went through the proposal line by line, making numerous adjustments where necessary. Gail Friedlander pointed out that many of these budgeting issues involve consideration of our values as a congregation, and we should work in future years to have time to discuss these more leisurely – well before the budgeting process begins. Tiela Chalmers kept a list of such topics – such as which events should be viewed as fundraisers and which events should be held even if they entail a financial loss – to be discussed at this summer's Advance.

Based on a proposal formulated by Kathy Simon and Brett Trueman, the Va'ad decided to discontinue, as of July, the use of "pushke baskets" after Friday night services. As a way of compensating for the lost income, an article will be written for the June *Forward* asking for contributions of \$52 (or a smaller amount) to offset the loss of the pushke revenue. Also, plaques will be put on the pushke boxes, which are attached to the wall in the front of the sanctuary, and in the oneg room, to make their use clear.

On the recommendation of the Bikkur Cholim Committee, the Va'ad approved the donation of \$400 from the AIDS fund to each of the following organizations: AIDS Project of JFCS, AIDS Emergency Fund and the Shanti Project.

The Elections Committee recommended that a new position, assistant treasurer, be written into the By-Laws.

The position would be appointed by the president with the approval of the Va'ad. The duties would include assuming some of the current responsibilities of the treasurer, such as approval of invoices, working with committees to develop budgets, and assisting in the preparation of the monthly financial statements. The post would be overseen by the treasurer, and would not be entitled to a vote on the Va'ad. The Va'ad agreed to put this possible By-Laws change before the congregation at the annual meeting.

Membership Chair Judy Schwartz presented three individuals and two families for membership and they were accepted. She also announced that she has gotten word of a lesbian couple in the former Soviet Union who are looking for a Russian-speaking person who would like to correspond with them (see page 9).

Following brief reports from the president, the rabbi, and the office manager, our meeting was adjourned with the singing of *Oseh Shalom*.

—Kathy Simon, Recorder

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Birthdays

3	Rachel Katz
5	Heather Fox
6	Roberta Weber
7	Gordon Osser
7	Judy Macks
10	Jared Goldfine
12	Kathy Simon
13	Arthur Brendze
14	Lyssa Friedman
17	Diana Buchbinder
19	Sandy Meyers
19	Sandra Butler
19	Alita Rosenfeld
19	Martin Spector
20	Leonard Brill
20	Bill Ashley-Dobbin
22	Sandra Blair
23	Sara Haber
23	Eli Weinstein
24	Caroline Isaacs
25	Brian Ellis
27	Judith Rosenberg
28	Andre Fournier
29	Shirley Liberman
30	Judith Klain

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Laurie Gross at Jewish Museum

The first national retrospective of conceptual fibre sculptor Laurie Gross, *Of Fine Linen: The Art of Laurie Gross*, opens at the Jewish Museum in San Francisco on April 3 and continues through June 14.

Ms. Gross began her examination of the traditional Jewish prayer shawl (*tal-lit*) when she wove one as a gift for her grandfather. At that time, she became interested in this ceremonial garment which is worn during prayer, as a symbol for "the fabric of Jewish life."

The first consists of compositions derived from the basic form of the prayer shawl—a narrow, vertical, double band of fabric with a midpoint loop. By manipulating and repeating this basic shape, she developed wall constructions ranging in size from 20 inches to 10 feet. The traditional fringes of the shawl are also incorporated as an important compositional element and are hand-tied by Gross according to biblical dictates. The second period, which began in the mid-1980s, takes its departure from the wing-like forms associated with the traditional ark curtain valence or *kapporet*. This group includes serial images and constructions which hang off the wall.

Much of the creative inspiration for Gross' work is to be found in liturgical text; her titles reflect some of the most visually potent metaphors in biblical literature. However, understanding these literal references is not absolutely necessary to appreciate Gross' creations for their formal qualities alone, particularly because her utilization of natural linen amplifies the sculptural elements of each piece. Call 543-8880 for information.

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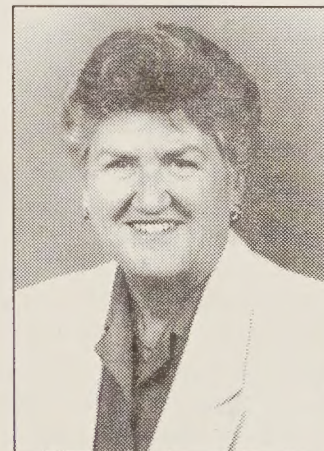
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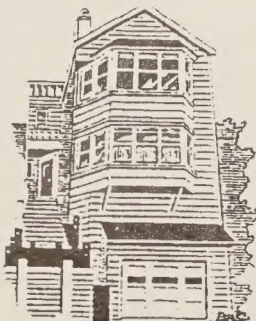


Call **Shirley Liberman**
(415) 863-7500 Ext. 123



1929 Market Street
San Francisco

Discount or referral fee to CSZ members



CSZ Mission Statement

- Congregation Sha'ar Zahav is a progressive Reform Jewish synagogue with an outreach to gay and lesbian Jews, their families, friends and community.
- CSZ aims to create a caring, egalitarian, Jewish community that promotes unity within diversity, and welcomes all people who want to support the congregation and wish to join in worship, learning and celebration.
- CSZ seeks to function as a participatory democracy, emphasizing personal responsibility and empowerment, in a manner consistent with the principles of progressive Judaism and feminism.
- CSZ addresses the spiritual and social needs of its membership through innovative liturgy, the teaching of Torah and Jewish heritage, the promotion of extended family and active support for *tzedakah*, *gemilut chasadim*, and *tikkun olam* (giving, community service, and social justice).
- CSZ allies itself with other religious, community, and social action groups to overcome prejudice and promote human dignity.

Editor's Note

The following letter is responding to an article in the July/August 1991 issue of the *Forward*. The long delay is due to the fact that we haven't had a policy regarding publishing letters to the editor. Now that we do, we are happy to begin with this one.

To the *Forward*:

I am writing to express my discomfort with the article that appeared in last month's *Forward*. This article, sponsored by the Israel Chavurah Committee, urges us to write letters to our congresspeople and senators in support of loan guarantees for Israel and in support of helping the settlement of Soviet Jews.

The article mentions that "helping the Soviet Jews is a humanitarian issue, and should be kept separate from other political issues in the Middle East." I find this argument to be naive and lacking in a realistic assessment of the impact of Israeli immigration policies on the Palestinian people. I believe that occupation and continued expansion of Israeli settlements in the West Bank is immoral and probably illegal. I believe that torture, murder, beatings, verbal abuse, and intimidation, by Israeli forces against the Palestinian people, is a terrible crime and not

in the best tradition of our people. How can this help for Soviet Jews be kept separate, if Soviet Jews are free to settle in the West Bank and/or participate as members of the Israeli Defense forces in the subjugation of the Palestinians? I do not favor loan guarantees until the Israeli government agrees to halt all new settlements in the West Bank.

Instead of writing our representatives for loan guarantees, we should continue to support progressive and peace-oriented Israelis who want to negotiate with the Palestinians. There may be some serious inroads towards peace if the process is not completely sabotaged by hardliners. Such a settlement could open up possibilities for mutual cooperation and development for Israel and Palestine. But they will not happen with an open checkbook and uncritical support for Israel.

—Jerry Geffner

Condolences

To **Nathan Robinson** on the death of his friend, Mark Page

To **Francie Hornstein** on the death of her cousin, Pauline Handelman

To **Mike Rankin** and the congregation on the death of friend and member, Isabelle Fishman

Shelley Recites

Longtime CSZ member Shelley Adler will be reading new works and old favorites on April 2 at 8 pm at the Old Wives' Tales, 1009 Valencia St., San Francisco, 821-4676. Admission ranges from \$3 to \$10, but no one will be turned away for lack of funds.

god

The following poem is by member Jerry Geffner, who read it at services a few weeks back. The rabbi would like to share Jerry's thoughts with us.

like mist
like soft soil
like birds flying very fast
nothing stays the same
so it is with god

god is not a man
god is not a parent
this god
is like a totem once worshipped
this god is like ancient language once
spoke
this god is a memory
all gone with time

nothing stays the same
god changes from our attempt to know
god is a direction
god is an unfolding
a constellation must move so must god

some buy and sell
they push god like pills
some snare and trap
they use god for bait
some worship
they invite god in
then they force god out
beat god to death

god cannot be kept in a box
hung on a wall
or sown to one's feet

god is like a huge plant
shaped like a question mark
providing shade

—Jerry Geffner

Isabel Lillian Caroline Ernie Jeffrey Marc
Eric Aaron Richard Susan Jane Henry Leo
Mark **Please wear your CSZ name tag to services!** Debra
Judith Ron Betty Scott Bernard Eve Jim
Claudia **your CSZ name tag to services!** Karen
Deborah Francine Ellen Jay Gabriel Edward
Randy **your CSZ name tag to services!** Joshua
Nancy Laurie Adrienne Allen Perry Dana
Mike **your CSZ name tag to services!** Gloria Gay Ann
Lynn Rebecca Harold Diane Seth Keith
Sara Irene Cindy Eileen Nina Doug Shirley

CIS Request

We have received a request from the Emigre Department of Jewish Family and Children's Services who were sent a letter from a lesbian couple living in the former Soviet Union. The letter asks for resources, information and connection, speaking of the pain of the couple's isolation and their need to be totally closeted.

The department is searching for a Russian-speaking gay or lesbian who would be willing to correspond with this couple. If you are interested, please call Judy Schwartz at JFCS (456-7554).

Summer Kallah

The Union of American Hebrew Congregations will sponsor a Summer Kallah on the campus of the University of California at Santa Cruz, July 22-26. The Kallah is an inspiring five-day experience that includes daily worship, study, discussion, and participation in the many forms of Jewish religious living. The program will be led by a distinguished faculty of rabbis, cantors, and scholars.

Barbara Shuman of Pittsburg, Pa., chair of the Commission on Religious Living, and Rabbi Sanford Seltzer, director, were in San Francisco in early December to present details of the Kallah to a gathering of interested persons from the Bay Area congregations, many of whom had attended previous Kallot at Brandeis and Brown universities.

Brochures providing detailed information on the schedule, program, and fees and promotional video tape suitable for congregational viewing are now available from the UAHC Regional Office. Registration is now open for adults who have a desire to learn and to share in this unique experience. If you are interested, or know someone who would be interested in this exceptional study opportunity, please call Linda Feldman at the UAHC office, 392-7080.

Synagogue Information

Rabbi Yoel Kahn (861-6932)

Officers:

President, Allan Gold (929-9524)
Administrative Vice President,
 Claudia Bernard
Program Vice President,
 Tiela Chalmers
Treasurer, Brett Trueman
Recorder, Kathy Simon

Va'ad (Board) Members:

Phil Charney
 Daniel Chesir
 Steve Elman
 Gail Friedlander
 Lisa Katz
 Ida Kuluk
 Nathan Robinson
 Judy Schwartz
 Susan Unger

Office Personnel:

Manager, Mark Pressler
Secretary, Jim Cotant

Committee Chairs:

Archivist, open
Bequests and Donations, Pam Schaffer
Bikkur Cholim, by committee
Brotherhood, Phil Charney
Building, Ellen Gierson
Bylaws, Edward Pollock
Cemetery, Richard Inlander
Children's Chavurah, Audrey Adelson & Joan Lefkowitz
Cookbook Project, Robin Leonard
Dues, David Stein & Ron Lezell

Education, Don Albert (acting)
Finance, Pam Schaffer
Gift Shop, Jeff Rubin
Israel Chavurah, Ron Lezell
Long-Range Planning, Tiela Chalmers
Membership, Judy Schwartz
Newsletter, by committee
Oneg, Donna Rabinowitz
Past Presidents Council, Don Albert
Personnel, Claudia Bernard
Public Relations, Sharyn Saslasky
Religious School, Mary Morgan
Ritual, Larry Wexler
Social Action, Susan Foster
Social Program, by committee
Volunteer Coordinator, Robin Leonard
Women's Chavurah, Susan Tubbesing

Members wishing to contact any Va'ad member or committee chair are invited to obtain his or her number from the synagogue office.

Office Hours: Monday-Friday from 9 am to 4 pm. Rabbi's office hours by appointment. Please call the synagogue office at (415) 861-6932.

Emergency Number: In an emergency, the Congregation can be contacted outside of office hours by calling 861-6938.

Services are held every Friday evening beginning at 8:15 pm (except as noted), with an Oneg Shabbat following services. Services are generally held on the last Saturday of each month at 10:30 am—check calendar for each month.

Gift Shop Hours: Fridays, 7:30-8:05 pm

Library Hours: Open during office hours, and 30 minutes before and after Friday night services.

Member of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations (Mike Rankin, Allyce Kimerling, Liaisons) and of the World Congress of Gay and Lesbian Jewish Organizations (Eric Cooper-Keitel, Liaison).

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav (Congregation of the Golden Gate) is located in the Upper Market District of San Francisco at 220 Danvers at Caselli, which is one block south of the intersection of 18th and Market streets. By public transport, take MUNI bus 33 Stanyan to 18th and Danvers and walk one block south on Danvers to Caselli.

Dr. Diane Sabin

CHIROPRACTOR

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Remember to bring
 canned goods and other
 non-perishable food to
 Friday night services for
 the AIDS Food Bank

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav

שַׁעַר זָהָב

220 DANVERS AT CASELLI, SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94114

(415) 861-6932

אדר ב. ניסן

APRIL

1 Wednesday
27 Adar II

2 Thursday
28 Adar II

- 7pm, Children's Education meeting

3 Friday
29 Adar II

- 6:30pm, Women's Chavurah Shabbat dinner
- 8:15pm, Shabbat service, Scott Mezistrano, Susan Unger, Merry Luskin

4 Saturday
1 Nisan

- 9:30pm, Kadimah

5 Sunday
2 Nisan

6 Monday
3 Nisan

7 Tuesday
4 Nisan

- 7:15pm, Prayerbook Hebrew
- 7:45pm, How To Prepare a Derash

8 Wednesday
5 Nisan

9 Thursday
6 Nisan

10 Friday
7 Nisan

- 8:15pm, Shabbat service, Rabbi Kahn, Jonathan Comisar, Daniel Chesir

11 Saturday
8 Nisan

- 9:30am, Kadimah Sephardic Model Seder

12 Sunday
9 Nisan

13 Monday
10 Nisan

- 6pm, Healing Service
- 6:30pm, Va'ad meeting

14 Tuesday
11 Nisan

- 7:15pm, Prayerbook Hebrew
- 7:45pm, How To Prepare a Derash

15 Wednesday
12 Nisan

- 7:30pm, Newsletter editing, 1711 Castro, San Francisco

16 Thursday
13 Nisan

17 Friday
14 Nisan

- Passover – First Seder
- No Shabbat service

18 Saturday
15 Nisan

- Passover – No Kadimah
- Congregational Seder at Fort Mason Officers Club

19 Sunday
16 Nisan

20 Monday
17 Nisan

- 6pm, Healing Service

21 Tuesday
18 Nisan

- 7:15pm, Prayerbook Hebrew
- 7:30pm, Newsletter proofreading/layout, 1711 Castro, San Francisco
- 7:45pm, How To Prepare a Derash

22 Wednesday
19 Nisan

23 Thursday
20 Nisan

- 7:30pm, Bikkur Cholim

24 Friday
21 Nisan

- Passover – Last Night
- 8:15pm, Shabbat service, Rabbi Kahn, Tiela Chalmers

25 Saturday
22 Nisan

- No Kadimah
- 10:30am, Shabbat morning service
- 11:45am, Yizkor service
- 6pm, Women's Chavurah Havdalah Potluck, 346 Euclid, San Francisco, 386-7876

26 Sunday
23 Nisan

- 10am, Kaiser Brunch

27 Monday
24 Nisan

- 6pm, Healing service

28 Tuesday
25 Nisan

- 7:15pm, Prayerbook Hebrew
- 7:45pm, How To Prepare a Derash

29 Wednesday
26 Nisan

- 7:30pm, Trip to Israel meeting

30 Thursday
27 Nisan

- 6:30pm, Ritual Committee

Note: Gray areas indicate religious services.

Naches

To Marsha Blachman and Amy Gentile on the birth and naming of their daughter, Alexandra Juliette.

To Martin Spector and Roger Morales, who celebrated the one-year anniversary of their domestic partnership on Valentine's Day, February 14

To Tova Green for passing her Licensed Clinical Social Worker exam.

To Judith Klain and Marie Chavez

on the legal adoption of their son, Micha Klain-Chavez.

To Wendy Oberlander, whose work will be included in a group show called *Inductive Strategies*, which will be running at the New Langton Arts, 1246 Folsom, through April 11, Tuesday through Saturday 11 am–5 pm.

To Debra Chasnoff (producer/director) and Joan Lefkowitz (editor), whose

film, *Deadly Deception: General Electric, Nuclear Weapons and Our Environment*, has been nominated for an Academy Award for best short documentary.

To Cheryl Sena and Abbey Abinanti on the arrival of their daughter, Emma Rube Abinanti Sena, on February 11.

To Robin Leonard and Lee Ryan who were featured in a recent *Newsweek* article on domestic partners.